

# Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility

Published 30 Jun 2020 | Last updated 10 Feb 2021

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## ● COMPLETED

**Application type:** Researcher Project

**Application deadline:** 10 February 2021, 13:00 CET

**Relevant thematic areas for this call:** [Ground-breaking research](#)

**Target groups:** Research organisations

**Funding scale:** NOK 3 000 000-3 900 000

**Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals:**

NOK 65 000 000

**Project duration:** 36-36 months

**Contact for the call:** ResearcherProject |

[ResearcherProject@rcn.no](mailto:ResearcherProject@rcn.no)

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## Purpose

The purpose of this call is to increase international mobility and promote career development among researchers at an early stage in their careers, as well as to facilitate knowledge transfer to research groups in Norway. The call is targeted towards researchers at the post-doctoral level who are to spend two years at a research organisation abroad and the third year at a research organisation in Norway. Grant proposals will be accepted for projects within all disciplines and research areas.

## Important dates

**16 Dec 2020: Date call is made active**

**10 Feb 2021: Application submission deadline**

**01 Jul 2021: Earliest permitted project start**

**01 Dec 2021: Seneste tillatte prosjektstart**

**30 Nov 2024: Seneste tillatte prosjektslutt**

[Call for proposals](#)

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# About the call for proposals

Grant applications will be accepted for projects in all disciplines and research areas, and funding is available for both basic and applied research projects.

Specific requirements have been stipulated for the project manager's experience; see the section 'Requirements relating to the project manager'. Funding under this call is for researchers at the post-doctoral level who are to spend two years at a research organisation abroad and the third year at a research organisation in Norway.

You can only be the project manager for one application submitted for either a *Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility* (this call), [Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal](#), [Researcher Project for Young Talents](#), [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](#) or [Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges](#), all with a deadline of either 10 or 17 February 2021.

[Webinar for applicants - see recording and download the presentation from the webinar here](#), the webinar is in Norwegian, but the presentation is also available in English.

The Norwegian-language call for proposals is the legally binding version.

## Who is eligible to apply?

Approved Norwegian research organisations may apply. [See here for the list of approved Norwegian research organisations](#).

## Who can participate in the project?

### Requirements relating to the Project Owner

The research organisation listed as the Project Owner in the grant application must have approved the submission of the grant application to the Research Council.

### Requirements relating to the project manager

You must have completed a doctorate before project start-up. If you have not formally submitted your doctoral dissertation at the time of submission of the grant application, you must forward confirmation that you have submitted your dissertation at the earliest possible date, and at the latest by 15 May 2021, otherwise the grant application will be rejected. Send the confirmation in PDF format by email to [post@forskningsradet.no](mailto:post@forskningsradet.no) and label it with the project number and name of the project manager.

As of the application submission deadline, no more than seven years may have passed since the date of defence of your doctoral dissertation. You must have defended your dissertation no earlier than 10 February 2014.

If more than seven years have passed, you may apply to subtract leaves of absence, compulsory military service or sick leave in accordance with our rules for subtracting time:

### Rules for subtracting time

You may apply to subtract time used in connection with statutory leaves of absence, compulsory military service (up to 12 months for this) or continuous full-time and/or part-time sick leave equal to at least eight weeks full-time absence.

The periods to be subtracted must have taken place after the doctoral defence.

You are required to submit documentation of the time you are asking to subtract with your grant application. You must also enter the time deduction in the application form. We accept documentation from the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), physicians/health services and employers. Documentation from current or former supervisors is not sufficient. If you are providing documentation from an employer, it must come from the employer's administration department, such as the HR department.

The documentation must be submitted in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English, or must be accompanied by a certified translation into one of these languages.

We follow the rules for leaves of absence set out in the Norwegian Working Environment Act, and you may apply to subtract time for any leaves of absence you would have been entitled to if you had lived in Norway at the time. For example, you may subtract time for parental leave in a country that does not have statutory parental leave, provided that you actually took parental leave. You must be able to document the leave as described above.

- It is not possible to receive funding for a *Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility* more than once.
- As of the application submission deadline, you may not have lived or worked in the country of the host institution for more than 12 months in the past three years.
- As of the application submission deadline, you must have lived or worked in Norway for at least 12 months in the past seven years.
- You must be employed by the Project Owner (Norwegian research organisation) for the entire duration of the project period.
- You must have taken a master's degree or PhD at a Norwegian research organisation.

You can only be the project manager for one application submitted for either a *Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility* (this call), [Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal](#), [Researcher Project for Young Talents](#), [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](#) or [Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges](#), all with a deadline of either 10 or 17 February 2021.

### **Requirements relating to partners**

Only approved Norwegian research organisations (see under 'Who is eligible to apply?' above) and corresponding research organisations in other countries are eligible to be partners and to receive Researcher Project funding.

Other types of organisations, such as companies and other undertakings, may not be project partners in Researcher Projects.

The Project Owner and/or project partners may hire providers of R&D services (sub-contractors) to carry out R&D services or contribute to individual tasks in the project.

Read more about [project partners and R&D suppliers here](#).

See also our [information about the state aid rules](#).

A project participant may not be assigned two different roles in the project. This means that a sub-contractor for the project may not have the role of Project Owner or partner in the same project.

## **What can you seek funding for?**

You will find detailed and important information about [what to enter in the project budget](#) on our website.

You may seek funding to cover actual costs that are necessary to execute the project. The Project Owner is to obtain information about costs from each project partner. These costs are to be entered in the cost plan under the relevant category.

Support may be granted for the following costs:

- Payroll and indirect expenses: Own payroll expenses for three years.
- Procurement of R&D services. The Project Owner and partners may purchase R&D-related services from public and private suppliers individually or together.
- Equipment. This encompasses operating and depreciation costs for scientific equipment and research infrastructure necessary for the execution of the project.
- Operating expenses, which comprise costs for other activities that are necessary to carry out R&D efforts under the project. Here you may enter up to two round-trip tickets between Norway and the host country.

### Scope of funding

You may apply for a minimum of NOK 3.0 million and a maximum of NOK 3.9 million to cover project costs. You can use [this spreadsheet in calculating the costs](#).

### Own payroll expenses for three years

For the first two years (to be spent abroad), the following rates apply:

2021	2022	2023	2024
956 703	984 448	1 012 997	1 042 373

For the third year (to be spent in Norway) the following rates apply:

2023	2024
1 220 000	1 265 000

These rates include overhead costs for the research organisations abroad and in Norway.

### Research stays abroad for the first 12 months abroad

[See the Research Council's rates](#). The amount will be entered automatically if you use the spreadsheet above.

### Conditions for funding

The Research Council will not award support that constitutes state aid under this call. This means that the Research Council funding is only to go to the non-economic activity of the research organisations. We require a clear separation of accounts for the organisation's economic and non-economic activities. Companies will not be eligible to receive support to cover projects costs and may not receive indirect support through the granting of any rights to project results.

The Research Council's requirements relating to allocation and disbursement of support for the first year and any pledges and payments for subsequent years are set out in [the General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects](#).

## Archiving of research data

The Project Owner (/research organisation) is responsible for selecting which archiving solution(s) to use for storing research data generated during the project.

The Project Owner must specify the planned solution(s) in connection with the revised grant proposal.

Research results are to be made accessible through sharing and publication in line with the Research Council's [Policy on Open Science](#).

## Requirements relating to medical and health-related studies involving human participants

For medical and health-related studies involving human participants, the Research Council stipulates special [requirements and guidelines for prospective registration of studies and disclosure of results](#).

# Relevant thematic areas for this call

The call encompasses all disciplines and research areas, and grant applications will be accepted for both basic and applied research projects.

The detailed information in English about the topics will be finalised by November 2020.

## Ground-breaking research

### NOK 65 million to ground-breaking research (FRIPRO) ✓

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Funding will go to the most ground-breaking research and the research with the highest scientific merit regardless of discipline or topic. We will fund the best projects in both basic and applied research that contribute to strengthening our national contingency knowledge. The funds should especially promote scientific quality at the forefront of international research and bold and innovative research.

#### Ranking of applications

Only applications that are awarded an overall assessment mark of 6 or 7, and 6 or 7 for the Excellence assessment criterion, are eligible for funding. We emphasise the ranking of applications in the panels.

#### Funds subject to special guidelines

In the topic ground-breaking research (FRIPRO) under the three calls *Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal*, *Researcher Project for Young Research Talents* and *Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility*, funds are included from the Storting's climate settlement and the technology boost in The Long-term Plan for Research and Higher Education:

#### **NOK 24 million to renewable energy and carbon capture and storage**

If your application is relevant to these funds, you must write the word **'Energy'** in the field 'Other relevant programmes/activities/projects' in the application form.

#### **NOK 25 million to basic ICT research for digital transformation**

If your application is relevant to these funds you must write the word **'ICT'** in the field 'Other relevant programmes/activities/projects' in the application form.

#### **Administrative procedures**

Applications for *Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal* that are relevant to funds subject to special guidelines, will initially be assessed on a par with other applications for *Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal* for ground-breaking research, within the ceiling of the NOK 65 million described above. Applications that qualify will be awarded funds from there. After that, the portfolio boards will allocate funds subject to special guidelines for relevant projects.



#### Contacts

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### Read more about FRIPRO

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- [FRIPRO - Ground-breaking research](#)



### Relevant plans

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- [Portfolio plan for Life science](#)
- [Portfolio plan for Natural sciences and technologies](#)
- [Portfolio plan for Humanities and social sciences](#)



### Other relevant calls with the same topic

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- [Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal](#)
- [Researcher Project for Young Talents](#)
- [Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project](#)

## Practical information

### Requirements for this application type

Applications must be created and submitted via My RCN Web. You may revise and resubmit your grant application form multiple times up to the application submission deadline. We recommend that you submit your application as soon as you have filled in the application form and included all mandatory attachments. After the deadline, it is the most recently submitted version of the grant application that will be processed.

The application must meet the following requirements:

- The application and all attachments must be submitted in English.
- All mandatory attachments must be included.
- Requirements relating to the project manager and Project Owner (research organisation) must be satisfied.
- The project period is three years. You will spend the first two years at a research organisation abroad and the last year at a research organisation in Norway. If necessary, up to two months of the period spent at the Norwegian research organisation can be moved to the start of the project period.
- The project must start between 1 July 2021 and 1 December 2021.
- Funding must be sought from the Research Council for 2021.

Applications that do not satisfy the requirements listed above may be rejected.

#### Mandatory attachments

The designated templates found at the end of the call for proposals must be used for all attachments.

- A project description, maximum 11 pages.

- A letter of invitation from the host institution abroad (this does not have a designated template).
- A CV for the project manager, maximum four pages.
- Applications for time deductions to meet the experience requirement must be documented (this does not have a designated template). (To be uploaded under *Attachments/Other items* in the application form.)

### Optional attachments

- CVs of key project participants not exceeding four pages each. The CV template at the end of the call must be used.
  - Applicants themselves are to decide which project participants are most important and in which cases it will be of significance to the review process to assess these participants' qualifications.
- Applicants are free to propose up to three referees who are presumed to be impartial and qualified to review the grant proposal.
  - The Research Council is not under any obligation to use the proposed referees, but may use them as needed.

Attachments other than the mandatory and optional attachments specified above, as well as any links to websites in the grant application, will not be included in the application review process.

## Assessment criteria

Grant applications will be assessed in relation to the following criteria:

### Excellence

The extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, novel, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art

- Scientific creativity and originality.
- Novelty and boldness of hypotheses or research questions.
- Potential for development of new knowledge beyond the current state-of-the-art, including significant theoretical, methodological, experimental or empirical advancement.

The quality of the proposed R&D activities

- Quality of the research questions, hypotheses and project objectives, and the extent to which they are clearly and adequately specified.
- Credibility and appropriateness of the theoretical approach, research design and use of scientific methods. Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches.
- The extent to which appropriate consideration has been given to ethical issues, safety issues, gender dimension in research content, and use of stakeholder/user knowledge if appropriate.

### Impact

Potential for enhancement of the career prospects of the researcher

- The extent to which the project, including the choice of the host institution abroad, will enhance the potential and future career prospects of the researcher.
- Quality and appropriateness of the training and supervision of the researcher, and of the integration in the host institutions.
- Potential for transfer of knowledge from the host institution abroad to the Norwegian host institution during the third year of the project.

Potential impact of the proposed research

- Potential for academic impact:

The extent to which the planned outputs of the project address important present and/or future scientific challenges

- Potential for societal impact (if addressed by the applicant):

The extent to which the planned outputs of the project address UN Sustainable Development Goals or other important present and/or future societal challenges.

- The extent to which the potential impacts are clearly formulated and plausible.

Communication and exploitation

- Quality and scope of communication and engagement activities with different target audiences, including relevant stakeholders/users.

## Implementation

The quality of the project manager and project group

- The extent to which the project manager has relevant expertise and experience, and demonstrated ability to perform high-quality research (as appropriate to the career stage).
- The degree of complementarity of the participants and the extent to which the project group has the necessary expertise needed to undertake the research effectively.

The quality of the project organisation and management

- Effectiveness of the project organisation, including the extent to which resources assigned to work packages are aligned with project objectives and deliverables.
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.
- Appropriateness of the proposed management structures and governance.

## Overall assessment of the referee/panel

Overall assessment of the referee/panel based, on the criteria Excellence, Impact and Implementation.

# Administrative procedures

See a detailed [description of the processing procedure here](#).

### Preliminary administrative review

Applications that do not meet the formal requirements may be rejected.

### Panel assessment

The applications are then assessed by referees, who later take part in a panel meeting and reach final consensus-based marks for the assessment criteria and overall assessment, and prepare consensus-based written assessments.

### Portfolio assessment

When we prioritise between applications for the recommendation to the portfolio boards, the portfolio assessment takes the following into account:

- The applications' assigned marks based on the assessments.
- The relative volume and quality of grant applications within the same topic under other calls in 2021.
- Any changes in the financial or scientific framework set by the ministries.
- Priority will be given to projects led by women project managers when the applications are otherwise considered to be on a par.

Recommendations are presented to the portfolio board, which has the authority to grant funding.

Please note that the amount announced in the call, both overall and per topic, is an estimate of available funding. The final amount of funding granted may therefore deviate somewhat from this estimate.

The procedures described here are subject to change due to the coronavirus situation.

## Download templates



Template for Project Description International Mobility 2021.docx



CV Template - Project Manager - International Mobility 2021.docx





CV Template - Partner - International Mobility 2021.docx



Budget Calculator - Researcher Project - International mobility  
2021.xlsx



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